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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member has made a speech and so he cannot withdraw his motion."

The resolution was put and declared lost.

Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja demanded a poll, and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja.
2. Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
3. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
4. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. „ Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. „ Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. „ Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. „ Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. „ Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. „ Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Rao Bahadur C. V. Anantakrishna Ayyar.
9. Mr. C. B. Cotterell.
10. „ H. A. Watson.
11. „ C. A. Souter.
12. „ S. H. Slater.
13. „ A. McG. C. Tampoe.
14. „ C. W. E Cotton.
15. „ M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
16. „ J. Bheemayya.
17. „ R. Foulkes.
18. „ Muppil Nayar of Kavalappara.
19. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur
20. Mr. K. Krishnan.
21. „ N. Siva Raj.
22. „ M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
23. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
24. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
25. „ Daniel Thomas.
26. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
27. Mr. G. R. Premayya.
28. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
29. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
30. „ S. Satyamurti.
31. „ C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
32. „ T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
33. „ P. Anjaneyulu.
34. Abdul Hamid Khan Sahib Bahadur.
35. Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
36. „ G. Harisarvottama Rao.
37. „ C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
38. „ K. V. R. Swami.
39. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
40. Mr. K. R. Karant.
41. „ M. Narayana Rao.
42. „ A. Parasurama Rao.
43. „ C. Ramasomayajulu.
44. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
45. Mr. P. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu.
46. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
47. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
48. „ R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
49. „ K. Koti Reddi.
50. „ L. K. Tulasiram.
51. „ K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
52. „ K. Madhavan Nayar.
53. „ C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
54. „ K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.
55. „ A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
56. „ Ramanath Goenka.
57. „ R. Nagan Gowda.
58. „ K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
59. „ B. Ramachandra Reddi.

Neutral.

1. Mr. S. Venkiah.
2. „ V. Ramjee Rao.
3. „ K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
4. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
5. Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
6. „ J. A. Saldanha.
7. „ D. Narayana Raju.
8. „ C. Obi Reddi.
9. „ K. P. Raman Menon.
10. The Raja of Panagal.
11. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
12. Mr. T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
13. Khan Bahadur T. M. Moidoo Sahib.
14. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
15. „ B. Muniswami Nayudu.
16. Diwan Bahadur A. M. M. Murugappa Chettiyar.
17. The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.

Ayes 4. Noes 59. Neutral 17.

The resolution was lost.

NON-OFFICIAL COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE GOVERNMENT PRESS, MADRAS.

* Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I beg to move the resolution that stands in my name— 4-45 p.m.

'*That this Council recommends to the Government that a non-official committee be appointed to investigate into* (1) *the large number of dismissals, suspensions, reductions and removals of the employees of the Government Press, Madras,* (2) *the policy adopted by the Superintendent in respect of the union of the employees and* (3) *the conditions of remuneration, leave, etc., of the piece-workers.*'

" Sir, the Superintendent of this institution about whom the hon. the Home Member gave some information yesterday on the floor of this House was that the only qualification he had was that he had no qualification that could be called a qualification. But the Government say we have got our own judgment of the man, and so the hon. the Home Member thinks that he is the fittest man. He was appointed in 1919 and he has been in charge of that institution as a gazetted officer for the last four or five years. This institution contains about 1,500 labourers, and he has succeeded in dismissing 800 of them. The total punishments inflicted up to the end of 31st March 1927 are as follows :—

	Year.
297	in 1923
334	„ 1924
345	„ 1925
440	„ 1926

Out of a total of about 1,500 employees, about 1,265 minor punishments have been made already. Punishments of dismissals, removals and suspensions alone amount to 879. It is also curious to note that six men are suspended for incompetence."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Is the hon. Member reading his speech from a paper ? "

* Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" I am only refreshing my memory."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member must more cleverly do it."

* Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" No necessity at all. Without doing that, I can go on.

" A man who was drawing Rs. 60 gets into the good graces of the Superintendent, Government Press, and he is suddenly raised to a scale of Rs. 200—265. The hon. Member in charge will realize that this man's name is Mariabagyam and he is called the Personal Assistant to the Superintendent, and that this man is solely responsible for the large number of dismissals, removals and suspensions. The hon. the Home Member said that he had no power to interfere with the punishments inflicted and that the Government's hands are tied down. There is a great discontent among the employees and this discontent is put down by the formation of a rival club by Mr. Mariabagyam, which has been started and conducted with the idea of giving treat or dinner parties to the Superintendent, Government Press, whenever he goes the hills and these poor labourers are always asked to contribute for such expenses. If they do not contribute, their names are entered in the black list kept by the said Mr. Mariabagyam, and very soon

punishments would be overtaking these poor labourers. I have already referred to the case of one Mr. Balakrishna Pillai, who although he applied for sick leave on a medical certificate, the Superintendent did not grant him leave; and he was compelled to work, with the result that when he went home he died. His wife made a statement to the authorities that it was only the Superintendent, Government Press, that was responsible for the death of her husband, and if he had been granted leave he would not have died. The Government on hearing her representations took pity upon her and granted a compassionate allowance of Rs. 150. About the character of this Mariabagyam I need not tell you much. His influence is so great that he is looked on as the 'Periadorai' by all the workers.

"The date of birth of the Superintendent when he joined Government service as a non-gazetted officer was entered as 1873, but when he was promoted to the rank of gazetted officer, the register also showed an advancement of one year in his date of birth. This went on undetected for six or seven years till recently when the Accountant-General scrutinized the registers, and asked for an explanation for this discrepancy, but he was not able to explain satisfactorily. The case is said to be still under investigation. This is the qualification and standard of character of the officer whom the Government find from their own special test to be a fit and proper person to be in charge of the destinies of 2,000 poor labourers in the Press."

Mr. ABDUL HAMID KHAN:—"I have great pleasure in seconding the resolution. The allegations made by the hon. the Mover of the resolution are very serious allegations. There is no use of saying that the Superintendent is a responsible officer and that he should be given full authority to deal with his employees as he pleases. The situation has become very serious especially when it is considered that an officer drawing Rs. 1,000 to 1,500 should have managed to dismiss 800 employees. So it is very necessary that the Government should scrutinize the question and remedy the grievances of the employees. Perhaps the Government think that the prestige of the officer would go if they interfered with his actions. I do not think that Government should stand on that consideration especially when the livelihood of such a large number of employees is at stake."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR:—"Sir, if my hon. Friend the Mover wants to have a committee appointed, I think nobody would be more eager than myself to welcome such a committee. But I wish to emphasize this one point; Government Press consists of about 2,000 employees, and if dismissals and fines take place they are quite natural. Such things happen always in case of large institutions. In every office the head of a department is always responsible for fines, dismissals and removals of the employees. The gentleman referred to by my hon. Friend, Dr. Mallayya, is a sort of personal assistant and what influence could he wield? Are we to understand that the head of the department is incapable of doing anything individually, cannot use his discretion and cannot scrutinize any matter and arrive at a decision himself? Is he led by the influence of the personal assistant? If my friend wants an enquiry, he is quite welcome to stress that point as much as possible as he possibly can. The gentleman, Mr. Mariabagyam, has been in the Government Press for the last 25 years and there have been no adverse criticisms against him. He might have started a club for the benefit of some of the employees of the Press. That itself

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shows that he is interested in the welfare of the employees He is starting all sorts of clubs in order to show to the workmen that they too could have all kinds of entertainments just as other people had. I also read in newspapers about the anniversary held by this club and various kinds of entertainments were also provided for these workmen. These are all institutions like co-operative societies for relieving the distress of the poor and also as a sort of recreation to these workmen. If I remember right, my hon. Friend, the Mover, said that he was starting a rival club and perhaps suspected that this gentleman wanted to get rid of some of the employees. I have no such suspicion. Therefore, Sir, as for the enquiry in the name of justice, in the name of fair play, by all means have an enquiry. But, merely to charge a man that he is responsible for all these dismissals and suspensions of these workmen because some interested persons who have been dismissed say so is very unfair."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I speak, Sir ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If it is a question of speaking, I think there is no time."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I shall finish it in a minute."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I move that the question be now put."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— I think the question may be taken up as soon as we meet on the next non-official day."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" To-day the Opposition requests for half an hour more and I have to accept it."

* The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " This resolution recommends the appointment of a non-official committee for three purposes: (1) To investigate into the large number of dismissals, suspensions, reductions and removals of the employees of the Government Press, Madras, (2) the policy adopted by the Superintendent in respect of the union of the employees, and (3) the conditions of remuneration, leave, etc , of the piece-workers.

" My hon. Friend, Dr. Mallayya, in his enthusiasm to finish the debate rather early, did not say a word about the second and third purpose for which he urged that a committee should be appointed. He simply said that there had been a large number of dismissals. Therefore he wanted that a non-official committee should be appointed. He said nothing as to the policy that has been adopted by the Superintendent in regard to the Government Press Union or to the conditions of remuneration of the piece-workers. Therefore my task has been made very easy. All that he said was that there had been a very large number of dismissals, and therefore Government should appoint a committee. I do not think that is reasonable. No reason has been adduced why a committee should be appointed. Yesterday, in response to a question asked by one of the hon. Members, I placed a list of punishments inflicted on the employees. There are 1,500 to 2,000 people employed in the Government Press. About 180 persons have been punished and most of them with small fines. Hon. Members know that if persons are unjustly 5 p.m.

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punished they have got a right of appeal to the Government. Then we are prepared to consider the appeals. I do not think I can say anything more in that respect because no arguments have been adduced to show the necessity for the appointment of a non-official committee.

" As regards what was stated about the union I have gone into that question and do not find a single person has been punished for being a member of the union.

" With regard to the conditions of remuneration, I may say that the Government very recently considered that question. The piece-workers sent up a memorial to Government about a year ago asking for (1) enhanced remuneration, (2) remuneration when they wait without work, (3) casual and privilege leave and leave on special holidays, (4) enhanced bill allowance and (5) counting as service for the purpose of pension the period spent on leave with permission though without allowance. The Government considered these five requests and granted concessions mentioned against (4) and (5). With regard to the other three the Government were of opinion that there was no necessity to grant them. I do not think a non-official committee can solve these questions. The Superintendent, Government Press, was also told that the rules regarding hospital leave were applicable to all press employees including piece-workers, temporary and permanent, their leave salary being calculated on the basis of the average pay for the past 12 months. I do not think that a non-official committee will serve any useful purpose. I feel, Sir, that no case has been made out for its appointment. If people have been punished severely and if fines have been imposed upon them unjustly, they have a right of appeal to the Government. The Government are prepared to consider their appeals. Most of the punishments imposed are of small fines. The head of an institution who has to manage employees numbering about 1,500 to 2,000 people must have recourse to such punishments. I therefore oppose the resolution."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I move, Sir, that the question be now put."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I second it."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The question is that ' the question be now put.' "

The question was put to the House and declared lost. A poll was damanded and the House divided thus :—

Ayes.

1. Mr. A. B Shetty.
2. ,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
3. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
4. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
5. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
6. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
7. ,, S. Satyamurti.
8. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar
9. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
10. ,, P. Anjaneyulu
11. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
12. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
13. ,, Abdul Hamid Khan.
14. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
15. Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao.
16. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
17. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
18. ,, Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
19. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
20. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
21. Mr. K. R. Karant.
22. ,, M. Narayana Rao.
23. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
24. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
25. ,, C. Ramasomayajulu.
26. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed.
27. ,, P. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu.
28. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.

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Ayes—cont.

29. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
30. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
31. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
32. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
33. ,, C. Marudavanam Pillai.
34. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
35. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
36. ,, K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.
37. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
38. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
39. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
40. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.
41. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
42. Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
43. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
44. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Rao Bahadur C. V. Anantakrishna Ayyar.
9. Mr. C. B. Cotterell.
10. ,, H. A. Watson.
11. ,, C. A. Souter.
12. ,, S. H. Slater.
13. ,, A. McG. C. Tampoe.
14. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
15. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
16. ,, R. Foulkes.
17. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
18. Mr. K. Krishnan.
19. ,, N. Siva Raj.
20. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
21. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja.
22. Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
23. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
24. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
25. The Raja of Panagal.
26. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
27. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
28. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.
29. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
30. ,, B. Muniswami Nayudu.
31. The Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

Ayes 44. Noes 31.

The closure motion was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The question is that 'this Council recommends to the Government that a non-official committee be appointed to investigate into (1) the large number of dismissals, suspensions, reductions and removals of the employees of the Government Press, Madras, (2) the policy adopted by the Superintendent in respect of the union of the employees and (3) the conditions of remuneration, leave, etc., of the piece-workers.' "

The motion was put to the House and declared lost.

A poll was demanded and the House divided as follows :—

Ayes.

1. Mr. A. B. Shetty.
2. ,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
3. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
4. Swami A. S. Sahajanandam.
5. Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
6. ,, S. Satyamurti.
7. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
8. ,, T. A. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
9. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
10. ,, P. C. Venkatapati Raju.
11. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
12. ,, Abdul Hamid Khan.
13. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
14. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
15. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
16. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
17. ,, Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
18. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
19. Dr. B. S. Mallayya.
20. Mr. K. R. Karant.
21. ,, M. Narayana Rao.
22. ,, C. Obi Reddi.
23. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
24. Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu.
25. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed.
26. ,, P. Bhaktavatsalu Nayudu.
27. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
28. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
29. ,, R. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
30. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
31. ,, L. K. Tulasiram.
32. ,, C. Marudavanam Pillai.
33. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
34. ,, K. Madhavan Nayar.
35. ,, K. S. Sivasubrhamanya Ayyar.
36. ,, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar.
37. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
38. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
39. ,, R. Nagan Gowda.
40. The Zamindar of Gollapalli.
41. Mr. Chavadi K. Subrahmanya Pillai.
42. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
43. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
44. Rao Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu.

Noes.

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. ,, Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
6. ,, Mr. S Mutbiah Mudaliyar.
7. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
8. Rao Bahadur C. V. Anantakrishna Ayyar.
9. Mr. C. B. Cotterell.
10. ,, H. A. Watson.
11. ,, C. A Souter.
12. ,, S. H. Slater.
13. Mr. A. McG. C. Tampoe.
14. ,, C. W. E. Cotton.
15. ,, J. Bheemayya.
16. ,, R. Foulkes.
17. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappa Bahadur.
18. Mr. K. Krishnan.
19. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja.
20 Mr S. Arpudaswami Udayar.
21. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
22. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
23. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
24. Khan Bahadur S. K. Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.

Neutral.

1. Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
2. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
3 Mr. N. Siva Raj.
4. ,, Daniel Thomas.
5. ,, K. Ramachandra Padayachi.
6. Mr. V. Ramjee Rao.
7. The Raja of Panagal.
8. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
9. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddi.
10. The Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

Ayes 44. Noes 24. Neutral 10.

The motion was carried.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I take it that the Opposition wanted to sit after 5 p.m. simply to finish this motion."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—"I wanted to finish the debate on this resolution."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now adjourn and will re-assemble on Saturday the 8th instant at 11 a.m."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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